

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1           Claim 1 (Currently Amended):    A bearing member manufacturing method   for  
2   manufacturing a bearing member having a body part formed of a first material of a light alloy, and  
3   a bearing part formed of a second material of a light-alloy-base material different from the light alloy  
4   forming the body part, said bearing part having a bearing surface of a semicircular cross section and  
5   integrally combined with the body part, said bearing member manufacturing method comprising the  
6   steps of:

7           forming short, cylindrical first workpieces made of the second material and each having a  
8   cylindrical inside surface serving as the bearing surface;

9           placing at least one of said first workpieces in a mold with a cavity formed around the at least  
10   one first workpiece;

11          pouring said first material in molten state into said cavity around the at least one first  
12   workpiece placed in the mold to ~~metallurgically~~ metallurgically bond together the at least one first  
13   workpiece and ~~[[the]]~~ a second workpiece along an interface therebetween, to thus form, in the mold,  
14   a primary workpiece having at least one semifinished workpiece including the at least one first

15 workpiece and the second workpiece integrally combined with each other; and

16 dividing the primary workpiece removed from the mold into halves along a center plane  
17 including a center axis of said cylindrical inside surface of the at least one first workpiece  
18 ~~workpieces~~ to obtain two substantially equivalent secondary workpieces for forming two equivalent  
19 bearing members.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

1 Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according to  
2 claim 1, wherein the molten first metal is poured into the cavity so as to flow in a swirling current  
3 in the cavity.

1 Claim 5 (Original): The bearing member manufacturing method according to claim 1,  
2 wherein an aluminum alloy is used as the first material, and an aluminum alloy having a high silicon  
3 content is used as the second material.

1 Claim 6 (Withdrawn) The bearing member manufacturing method according to claim 1,  
2 further comprising:

3 a casting step of forming a primary workpiece including a predetermined number of  
4 semifinished workpieces axially arranged such that at least second workpieces included in the

5 semifinished workpieces are continuously arranged in a direction parallel to the center plane, and  
6 a dividing step of dividing the primary workpiece along a plane perpendicular to the  
7 direction perpendicular to the center plane of the primary workpiece into the predetermined number  
8 of semifinished workpieces.

1 Claim 7 (Withdrawn) The bearing member manufacturing method according to claim 1,  
2 further comprising:

3 a casting step of forming the primary workpiece including a predetermined number of  
4 semifinished workpieces arranged in a direction perpendicular to the center axis included in the  
5 center plane such that the second workpieces are continuously arranged in a direction perpendicular  
6 to the center axis in the center plane, and

7 a dividing step of dividing the primary workpiece along a plane perpendicular to the direction  
8 perpendicular to the center axis in the center plane into the predetermined number of semifinished  
9 workpieces.

1 Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according to  
2 claim 1, wherein a coefficient of linear expansion of said first material is greater than a coefficient  
3 of linear expansion of said second material.

1           Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according to  
2           claim 1, wherein said cavity is given a substantially square shape with four corner portions, as  
3           viewed in a center axis direction of the cylindrical first workpieces, and said step of pouring said first  
4           material in molten state into said cavity is carried out by pouring the first material at said four corner  
5           portions of the cavity.

1           Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according  
2           to claim 1, wherein the bearing member is for supporting a crankshaft of an internal combustion  
3           engine.

1           Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according  
2           to claim 1, wherein the short, cylindrical first workpieces are manufactured by producing a  
3           cylindrical workpiece by extrusion and then cutting the cylindrical workpiece into the short,  
4           cylindrical first workpieces.

1           Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according  
2           to claim 1, wherein said body part is for being secured to a cylinder block of an engine having a  
3           crankshaft.

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Reply to OA dated January 24, 2008

1            Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according  
2 to claim 12, wherein the first material forming said body part has a coefficient of linear expansion  
3 close to that of the cylinder block, and the second material forming said bearing part has a coefficient  
4 of linear expansion closer to that of the crankshaft than that of the first material.

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